Amendment to the Claims

Claims 1 - 15 (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented)   A method of conducting an instant messaging session between a first user and a second user over the Internet, the users being associated with two different realms, each realm being accessible via the Internet using a protocol characteristic to the realm, each user getting access to the Internet via a respective first and second device, at least one device having a storage media for storing the characteristic protocol of the other realm, the method comprising the steps of:

determining a current IP address of the second user, and

establishing a connection from said first and second users using said current IP address and said characteristic protocol.

17. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 16 wherein each time one of said first and second users access the Internet, the corresponding device sends a message to an IM database indicating that the corresponding user is on line and said current IP address.

18. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 17 wherein said step of determining said current IP address comprises retrieving said address from said IM database.

19. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 17 further comprising sending a connection request from the first to the second device for establishing said instant message session.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 further comprising generating a response to said connection request by said second device accepting said connection request.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 further comprising displaying a window on the screen of said first and second devices, said window indicating a list of active users.

Claims 23 – 102 (Cancelled)